

Editorial Page

Detroit Water Supply

Ever since moving here about six years ago to make Farmington our home we have been hearing complaints about water.

In the city it has been complaints about the poor taste; the hardness of the water making a softening system necessary for washing of clothes, etc.; and a lack of an adequate supply for outside use during the hot summer months. Township citizens' complaints have been primarily about the lack or complete absence of water in many of the so called "dry areas." But, there has also been heard some mumbling from township homeowners about the general quality of water being drawn from private wells and the costs and trouble encountered with a private water system.

Announcement last week that soft Detroit water could be supplied to every City of Farmington user before the end of 1950 has brought another round of complaints. The major objections, naturally, have been about the costs that will be involved.

That a project such as this will cost some money is to be understood. How much the cost will be for the average homeowner has yet to be spelled out. Residents (I am assured, however, that before they go to the polls on April 11 to cast their ballots on the bond issue proposition this information will be supplied by us. We are not authorities on financing in connection with bond issues although we have analyzed and published information on numerous bond proposals in recent years. On the surface, it would appear that the yearly cost of each homeowner would not be too great if the bonds can be paid off over a 15 year period.

The rate, based on amounts consumed, which would be charged for Detroit water compared with the rate presently being charged for City of Farmington well water is some thing else again. We assume that it would be higher although we have not yet made any true comparison of just how much. This matter will also be analyzed by us in detail prior to the election and the information passed on to you.

Our big hope is that residents will consider this water question individually and not try to bring into it all of the community's other tax and money problems. Some we have heard from so far are already opposing the proposal before even having had time to analyze all the facts fully.

That fact that school taxes have been raising steadily in the community has nothing to do with the water question in our opinion. If people want less in the way of an education program than what we now have then this fact should be made known the next time a school bond issue or millage increase proposal is put to a vote and not even be considered in the water question. If it is less in the way of services than the city is presently providing that people want, as a means of reducing city taxes, then this matter should be decided the next time they elect councilmen.

One point we feel we must make clear is that regardless of whether voters decide for or against Detroit water they will continue to pay on the bonds sold to provide a sewerage disposal system for the city. A State injunction forced the city to provide such a satisfactory sewerage disposal system. Payments on this bond issue are included in your water bills.

Those who go to the polls and vote on April 11, basing their decision on facts, will have exercised their democratic rights and obligations. Those who don't care enough to bother will have no right to complain afterwards.

Growth of Community

Farmington is growing by leaps and bounds and all indications are that it will continue to grow at an even faster rate in the years ahead.

Despite the fact that residential growth has been tremendous in the past five or six years, however, it has not been nearly as rapid as some parties (oft primarily for their own personal gains) would like to make their potential customers believe.

Claims about the number of families living in Farmington City and Township which we have heard in recent months have ranged all the way from over 15,000 to between 10,000 and 11,000.

But facts don't lie. According to Farmington Post Office department figures there were 8,152 residential postal stops in the district served by it as of Feb. 10 this year. This does not include house trailer homes so we'll add 400 more. This still brings the total up to only a little over 8,500.

The area served by the Farmington Post Office includes all of the city and all of the township, except one square mile in the southwest section and less than 3/4 of a square mile in the northwest section. Both of the areas in the township not in the Farmington postal district are as yet very sparsely developed. At best we could not add more than 100 more homes and this is figuring on the heavy side, in our opinion.

Do You Remember . . .



MAIN STREET in Farmington in by-gone years was everything one would expect in a quiet country community. It was at that time, Grand River Ave. was a dirt road then and the traffic flowing in it was very sparse. The main mode of travel from Detroit to Farmington in those days was via the Detroit Urban Railroad system. The



tracks of this transportation line can be seen in the lower left hand corner of the picture at the right. The building to the right in this same photo is the old Grace Hotel, still in use as the Farmington Elks Lodge. The other photo shows a row of stores on the main street.

Life in Farmington 50 Years Ago Was Somewhat Different

By HARLEY WALTERS

This is the last portion of a story giving a glimpse of what life was like in Farmington 50 years ago.

THE WARNER Building next door was divided into three units: first, Tom McGee's Drug Store with the post-office at the second, Ray Dickerson's Hardware and third, on the west, Fred L. Cook's Dry Goods & Grocery.

Tom McGee advertised Don's Kidney Pills with the admonition to "Watch Your Kidneys." X-ray vision probably being common then. The postmaster was James B. Pierce and the three rural delivery carriers were Clyde Adams, Will Sprague and Lyman Sprague.

This information was noted in the Enterprise each week together with a list of letters due to be sent to the dead letter office. The rural routes were 30 miles long and required the delivery of two horses which were driven on alternate days.

Day Dickerson's Hardware carried a full line of hardware but with few of the items found in such a store today. Lamp chimneys, horse collars, pitchforks and currys combs were some of the things then in demand.

Fred L. Cook was a consistent advertiser and sold every thing from American Lady Cigarettes to ginger and naps. He was a dependable merchant and good citizen, so regular in his habits he always seemed to be on a time schedule.

Where the Civic Theater stands, Harrison Johnson had just bought an interest in Louis Schroeder's Grocery. They operated on a cash basis, passing on the savings to their customers. To quote their prices would be dangerous—someone might go out and shoot his grocer. Wages were low but so was the cost of living. Ten dollars a month would rent a good house.

HERMAN SCHROEDER'S Meat Market was on the land where Ratt's Hamburger is now. Sides of beef and a pig or two hung on a meat rack along with cold meats and sausages were the floor. In the winter the windows were frosted over and since the outside and inside temperatures were about the same, there was no problem in keeping the meat. Mr. Schroeder had no trouble with the insects that were plagues of the day and healthy and he was always friendly regardless of temperature. Still, the shop was uncomfortable for the customers who had to stamp their feet to keep warm while they stood in line.

William Walters' Pool Room, where the Gay Way Bar is, was a resort for many. Long benches on each side invited the male population to sit and visit, complain about taxes, politics and farm prices. Another service was laundry pickup, where the men left their high, starched collars and got them back in a few days—thus making two additional reasons for visiting the pool room. For excitement, a game of Indian dice would decide if a cigar was to be given to a customer.

Nothing. Chewing tobacco and cigars were much more popular than cigarettes. Some didn't mind waiting for the peanuts to be served.

finish roasting when they should have been home doing the chores. The better pool players had their own cues which were kept locked in a separate rack.

TIM CHAMBERLAIN'S Barber Shop next door was another place the women hadn't yet invaded. Tim repaired watches and helped to keep the D. U. R. on schedule. The big clock, now in the City Hall, ticked slowly away on the back wall and usually someone was tipped back to get a shave. Ben Meyers would put enough bay hair on to make a fresh haircut noticeable. During reckless moments the customers lived in fear reading the Police Gazette.

E. C. Grace's Dry Goods & Grocery at the corner of Farmington Road was much like Fred Cook's down the street. An added attraction at Grace's was the dentist with his foot-treadle drill. Dr. Mason came to Farmington on Fridays. The drill worked fast in the morning but by late afternoon, when the dentist's leg was tired, most of the zip had gone out of it.

The Farmington Town Hall, built in 1876, has been the focal point of the social and political life of the town. It was owned jointly by the Township, Village, and Masonic Lodge, the lodge having a 99-year lease to the second floor. In 1930 it was bought by citizens of Farmington and the walls and ceilings near the stage gasoline lamps and the lights were blackened with smoke.

Home talent shows, lectures, Eastern Star dances, political meetings and basketball games were all held there. Some of the Coed thought the games shouldn't be allowed because when the basket ball struck one of the lights, a great commotion resulted. In summer, the town's players played Saturday night on the lawn outside.

This writer took part in a Tom Thumb wedding at the town hall when he was seven years old. There, at sixteen, he learned to dance and at nineteen met his future wife, so the old building has a special meaning for him.

THE ROADS, including Grand River, were muddy in the spring; dusty in the summer and packed with snow all winter. A lot of cobs or big steam threshing machines was not an uncommon sight on Grand River. One winter horse races were run between the town hall and the Town Hall. Dr. Holcomb had a Carter automobile and both he and a demonstrator, who had been sent out from Detroit to his mill to drive, landed in a ditch.

Dr. Miller owned a Buick and waited for spring so he could go looking down the road. Walters owned a Jackson which had a wooden body and was made at Jackson, Michigan. Howard had piloted the car into the ditch with the factory with 16,000 cars in Michigan and a half-year license, the most popular car, cost \$250. No one drove during the winter months, any way.

Nineteen-eleven was the year changes began to take place in Farmington. The Eastern Michigan Edison Company was granted a franchise to build an electric line into Farmington. The mind waiting for the peanuts to be served.

Parade Was in 1920, Not 1924

The "Do You Remember" picture in the Feb. 11 issue of the Enterprise stated that the Farmington Centennial celebration was held in 1924.

Information received more recently reveals this date to be wrong.

According to George Gilmeister, an employee at the National Bank of Detroit, Farmington Branch, this was actually a picture of a Homecoming celebration held in Farmington on the fall of 1920.

Being past in the parade were two clowns riding on white donkeys. One of these clowns was George Gilmeister and the other Charles (Jack) Halberstadt, who died within the past year.

Schultz Serves On USS Boxer

Steven D. Schultz, fireman, USS, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl H. Schultz of 3382 Shawansee, Farmington, serving aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Boxer, is participating in Operation "Bingadex 1587," a six-week helicopter amphibious exercise at Vieques, P. R.

Scheduled to end in early March, the 4,000 man operation is being conducted by the assault ship USS Boxer, serving as flagship and nucleus of the helicopter squadron.

Marines participating in the "vertical envelopment" idea of warfare; landing troops by helicopters at the rear of the "enemy's" defense.

Shop in Friendly Farmington!

Looking Back Thru The Enterprise Files

15 Years Ago FEBRUARY 22, 1935

Bank Expands
The Farmington State Bank will soon enlarge its present facilities in order to better serve the community.

The additional space will come from the Plumber Barber Shop. It is planned to close up the Grand River entrance to the shop and cut a door through from the east wall of the shop, thus making another complete room.

The bank will take over the occupancy of the barber shop April 1, when Mr. Plumber's new building lease expires or sooner if Mr. Plumber's building is destroyed by fire.

10 Years Ago FEBRUARY 23, 1930
Tax Hike Added

Whether or not Farmington is to have an illuminated football field next fall was put in the hands of the Farmington voters Monday night when the Farmington School Board passed a motion authorizing the superintendent to prepare ballots for a special election.

If successful, the special election would authorize a one mill tax levy for two years to provide an estimated \$20,000 for the construction of the proposed field. Although an all-board members favor the construction project, many of them indicated pessimism over the election outcome because of present high school taxes.

Decision to ask for the levy came after trustees sent H. G. Jones a second report on the football field's cost and board members discussed its desirability. Board members balanced the need for more school facilities against the desire for the football field before voting.

5 Years Ago FEBRUARY 24, 1925
Light Vote

Approximately 27.6 percent of the registered voters of Farmington Township went to the polls Monday in the Biennial primary election to renominate the principal township officers.

Ernest Blanchard, Supervisor, and Harry McCracken, Clerk, were re-elected.

Successful Businessmen TV Series Set

A new television series, based on the careers of successful businessmen, will make its premiere in Detroit on Feb. 28 under the sponsorship of The Detroit Bank and Trust Company.

The program, "Sweet Success," will be seen each Monday night from 7 to 7:30 p.m. over Station WWJ-TV.

Each program will be devoted to a single personality selected from a wide variety of fields ranging from publishing, manufacturing and real estate to food processing, architecture and hotel management.

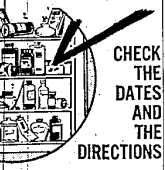
Produced and narrated by Jack Douglas, noted for his television successes in the radio-adventure field, "Sweet Success" will spotlight the careers of men and women who are established leaders in their fields, concentrating on their day-to-day working, living, social and recreational habits.

White many of the subjects are not considered as being well-known "names" to the general public, all of them will have the stamp of success as a common denominator.

Among the personalities whose successful careers will be explored during the Detroit Bank series will be Kenyon Brown, a Bing Crosby business associate and partner owner of the Detroit Tigers; James Ryder, president of Ryder Systems, Inc.; and Barron Hilton, youngest and regarded as the most successful son of hotelier Conrad Hilton; Don Loper, noted designer; Edward Courmand, president, Lanvin Perfumes, and others.

Seattle hotel owner and investor Floyd Clodfelter will be the subject of the premiere show on Feb. 29.

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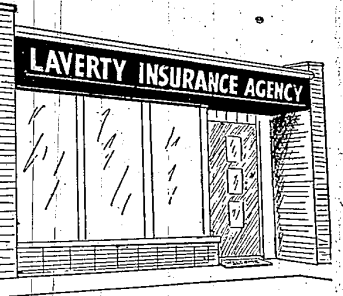
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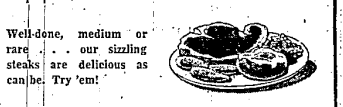
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GET THE FACTS - BETTER YET GET GAS!

The Farmington Enterprise

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